



DE CURAÇAOSCHE COURANT.

Deel XII.

ZATURDAG den 10den JANUARY, 1824.

N. 2

Gedrukt en Zaterdag's morgens uitgegeven ten Drukkery Kantore voor Z. M. den Koning der Nederlanden. door De Weduwe W. M. LEE.

Den 19den December 1823.

NAAR AMSTERDAM,

Zal tegens den 20sten January vertrekken, de snel zeilende Brik

MARIA & JACOBA,
Kapitein J. J. BART.

Voor Vracht en Passagie. vervoerge men zich ten Kantore van J. W. G. JUTTING.

January 3, 1824.

FOR FREIGHT, OR CHARTER.

THE SCHOONER

CORNELIA,

Being now completely repaired, and ready to take in cargo for any port of the Main, or to any of the islands. Apply to the Master on board or at his House in Pietermaey, No. 14. JOSEPH MOLLER.

Where he has for sale a few new made mahogany furnitures.

Fiscaal's Kantoor, den 9den January 1824.

DE ondergeteekende als daartoe door den Weidelen Achtbaren Raad behoort gekwalificeerd, doet by deze alle Broodbakkers te kennen geven, en ordonneert, dat de Broden voor de volgende week te bakken het gewigt moeten houden als:

- De Franche Broden 20, en
- De Ronde Broden 21 of een.

Op ponne als by publicatie is gestatueerd. Per order van den Raad Fiscaal, W. M. H. GORSIRA, Tweede Klerk.

BEKENDMAKING.

ALZOO den persoon van PIERLINGS VAN WASSENAAR, Schryver van zekere brief gedateert Curaçao den 1sten January 1822, en geadresseert van den Predikant VANBRONKHORST, te Vierlingsbeek in Noord Brabant, en volgens dat adres verzonden met het schip MARIA, kapitein de Jong, alhier niet bekend, waarop egter antwoord ontvangen is, hetwelk tevens met de voorzeide originele brief by den Officie Fiscaal berust, op dit Eiland niet is uitvindig te maken, zoo wordt elk en een ieder die omtrent deze persoon of zyn verblyf eenig na rigt kan geven, door den ondergeschrevenen Raad Fiscaal ten vriendelykste geinviteert, om zulks ter Fiscaalaat te willen open en aangeven, bannende de eigenhandige brief des begerende gezien, en de handteekening en schrift gezamenlyk worden tot meerdere informatie.

RAMMELMAN ELSEVIER.

Fiscaalaat den 30sten December 1823.

Den 3den January 1824.

WAARSCHOUWING.

DE ondergeteekende maakt mits deze aan allen die hem schuldig zyn bekend, dat indien zy binnen den tyd van 15 dagen hunne rekening niet komen betalen, hy verpligt zal zyn dezelve in handen van een' Prokureur ter invordering te leveren.

JOSEPH FOULKE.

January 3, 1824.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned notifies all those indebted to him that unless their accounts are settled in 15 days they will be handed to an attorney for collection.

JOSEPH FOULKE.

Den 2den January 1824.

TE HUUR OF TE KOOP.

EENE Buitenplaats, met derzelver woonhuis, bestaande uit eene Zaal, drie Kamers, waarby nog eene Regenbak, een Badhuis, Keuken, Paarden Stal, &c. gelegen op Viana, in het 3de Wyk, Huis No. 186, toebehoorende aan Mejufvrouw Dewedowe Vaughan, thans Echtgenote van den Heer K. van Eekhout.

Men gelieve zich tot dat einde te vervoegen by LUCAS HANSZ.

TE KOOP.

BEST SCHRYF MEDIAAN, KARDOES EN BORD PAPIER, FYN ROOD ZEGEL LAK, BESTE SCHAGTEN EN OUVELS. Te bevragen op dit Kantoor.

DE Schoutbÿnacht Gouverneur en Raden van Policie van Curaçao en onderhoorige Eilanden.

Allen den genen die deze zullen zien of hooren lezen, salut! doen te weten:

In aanmerking nemende dat het overeenkomstig de bestaande by het Gouvernement in het Moederland gemaakte bepaling zoude zÿn de sommen van f300 en f150 die vermeld staan in het 65 Artikel des Reglements op het Beleid der Regeering, het Justitie wezen, den Handel en de Scheepvaart alhier, waarin de Judicature van het Collegie van Commerce en Zee Zaken op dit Eiland is vastgesteld; tegen de koers van 33 1-3 stuivers Nederlandsch Courant per pezo van achten te berekenen.

Is goedgevonden en besloten: by alteratie van den koers tegen welke de voormelde sommen in Curaçaosche Courant berekend en overgebracht zÿn by Artikels 5 en 7 van het Reglement op de manier van procederen, voor het Collegie van Commerce en Zee Zaken alhier, hierby te bepalen dat de bedoelde sommen zullen berekend worden tegen 33 1-3 stuivers Nederlandsch Courant per pezo van achten; zoo dat de eerstgemelde som van f300 die van Ps. 180 zal uitmaken in stede van Ps. 150 zoo als in het gezegde aangehaalde 5 Artikel des gemelden Reglements is uitgedrukt; en dat de Cognitie van het meergemelde Collegie over zaken die niet van eenen Commercielen aard zÿn zal gaan over de zoodanigen welke bedragen in Curaçaosche Courant beneden Ps. 90 gelyk staande met de tweede gemelde som van f150, zullen zÿn en niet beneden Ps. 75 gelyk bepaald is in het mede aangehaalde 7 Artikel van het hiervorengemelde Reglement.

Aldus gearresteerd in des Raads vergadering gehouden op het Gouvernements Huis, binnen het Fort Amsterdam op Curaçao den 16den December 1823, het elfde Jaar van Zÿner Majesteits Regeering.

De Gouverneur en Raden voornoemd, (w. g.) CANTZ'LAAR.

Ter Ordonnantie van dezelve, (w. g.) W. PRINCE, Sec.

Gepubliceerd binnen het Fort Amsterdam, en in de Willemstad, den 23sten der gemelde maand.

(w. g.) W. PRINCE, Sec.

DE Schoutbÿnacht Gouverneur en Raden van Policie van Curaçao en onderhoorige Eilanden.

Allen den genen die deze zullen zien of hooren lezen, salut! doen te weten:

Dat goedgevonden en besloten is: ten einde de Solemnisatie van huwelyken nog nader te brengen op den voet waarop zulks in het Moederland gebruikelÿk is, te bepalen, zoo als by deze bepaald wordt:

1. Dat voortaan van den 1sten der maand January van het aanstaande Jaar 1824 af aan, geene voltrekking van huwelyken in de huizen of woningen der Contrahenten zal plaats hebben, ten ware in geval van uitdrukkelyke nood wegens ziekte vergezeld van periculum in mora ingevolge voldoende getuigschriften van deskundigen, waardoor de voltrekking geen uitstel lyden kan, als mede uithoofde van andere erkende wettelyke oorzaken; alle ter beoordeeling van de Leden Commissarissen uit dezen Raad dewelke als dan de bevoegdheid zullen hebben de huwelyken van personen die zich in dusdanige omstandigheden bevinden, zelfs dadelyk na de afkondiging der vereischte huwelyks geboden, ten hunne huizen of woonplaatse te Solemniseren,

zonder dat buiten de gewone legessen op de Solemnisatie ten Gouvernements Huis bepaald, daarvoor iets meerder of anders zal mogen berekend en gevorderd worden dan de som van Vyf en Twintig Pezos van Achten ten behoeve der armen.

2. Dat de aantekening van huwelyken, zoo als zulks nu plaats heeft des Vÿdags zal blyven geschieden en dat er in stede van drie niet meer dan twee achtereenvolgende Zondags geboden daarvan zullen noodig zÿn, waarna de aldus aangetoekende en afgekondigde huwelyken op den eerst volgenden Woensdag, des morgens te elf ure, in de Raad Zaal op het Gouvernements Huis binuen het Fort Amsterdam zullen worden gesolemniseerd.

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Allen den genen die deze zullen zien of hooren lezen, salut! doen te weten:

Dat goedgevonden en besloten is: te bepalen, zoo als hierby wordt bepaald, dat de Leden Commissarissen uit dezen Raad in het toekomende, aanvang nemende met het volgende Jaar 1824 alle Woensdagen, geene feestdagen zÿnde, des morgens te elf ure in de Raad-Zaal op het Gouvernements Huis binnen het Fort Amsterdam zullen vaceren, ten einde aldaar alle ter Secretarÿ van den Raad opgegevene en daartoe gereed liggende koop en hypotheekbrieven te passeren; weshalve dan alle belanghebbenden zich des Woensdag ter bepaalde ure ter gemelde Secretarÿ zullen hebben te begeven tot zoodanig einde als het vereischt wordt, om van aldaar naar de voormelde bestemde plaats te gaan.

Aldus gearresteerd in des Raads vergadering gehouden op het Gouvernements Huis, binnen het Fort Amsterdam op Curaçao den 16den December 1823, het elfde jaar van Zÿner Majesteits regeering.

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Blanks for Sale.

Bills of Exchange, in Dutch, English and Spanish.

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Prices Current in Dutch and English.

Para vender en la Imprenta.

LETRAS DE CAMBIO, y CONOCIMIENTOS, en la lengua Española.

Mexiko.—De Amerikaanse schoener Fame, kapt. Haley kwam op den 10den November, met 21 dagen reize van Alvarado te Havana aan, aan boord hebbende de twee Spaansche gecommisioneerden, D. Santiago Irisarri en D. Jose Ramon de Oses. Met dit vaartuig is de volgende officiele oorlogs verklaring van Mexiko tegen Spanje ontvangen geworden.

De onverwachte aanvang neming der vyandelykheden, door den gouverneur van het kasteel van San Juan de Uloa tegen de stad van Vera Cruz, heeft de hooge uitvoerende magt genoodzaakt om maatregelen te nemen, ten gevolge van eenen vyandelyken aanval, waartoe geen reden is gegeven, en welke door geene staatkundige overwegingen gewaarborgd wordt.

1. Worden er alle pontieke en kommerciele betrekkingen met de Spaansche natie verboden.

2. Zagtheid gebruikende, ingegeven door de menschlievende grondbeginzelen der Mexikaansche natie, wordt er bevolen dat alle Spaansche vaartuigen terstond de haven moeten verlaten, daar anderszints het in de magt van het gouvernement staat, beslag te leggen of verbeurd te verklaren.

3. Hetzelfde gedrag zal gehouden worden jegens alle Spaansche kooplieden, welke binnen de vier maanden tyd uit Europa in deze haven mogte aankomen, en veertig dagen aan die uit Havana of andere Spaansche plaatsen in Amerika.

4. Dat alle vaartuigen welke na de expiratie van dezen tyd mogten aankomen, zullen volgens de krygswetten behandeld worden; en van dit oogenblik af al de gewapende vaartuigen.

5. Dat na den bepaalden tyd van vier maanden geene Spaansche voortbrengzels zullen in gevoerd worden onder geene vlag hoegenaamd.

Van wege zyne excellentie,
FRANCISCO JOSE BERNAL.
Mexico, 1sten Oct. 1823.

Havana, 10den Nov.—Eenige dagen geleden is er van hier een klein eskader vertrokken met krygs en mondbehoefkens naar St. Juan de Uloa, en eene versterking van troepen en artillerie; men denkt dat de haven in den staat van blokkade zal verklaard worden. De Spaansche gecommisioneerden zijn terug gekeerd naar het Mexikaansche kongres. Er blijft nu geene hoop van vrede meer over.

OVERLEDEN—Op Maandag laatsleden, de weledede Heer Hendrik Hommels, in den hoogen ouderdom van ruim 65 jaren.

Op Dinsdag daarop volgende, een zoon van den Heer Joseph Möller.

En op Donderdag nacht, Mevrouw Sara Briard Schotborgh, Echtgenote van den Heer Louis Philippus De Rachemont, in den ouderdom van juist 30 jaren, naturende 9 kinderen, waarvan de jongste pas 3 dagen oud is.

BEVALLEN—Op den 6den dezer, van drie lingen, alle jongens, een slavin van Mevrouw Deweduwe Nathan Ellis. Op denzelfden dag stierven er twee van deze jongens, en twee dagen later de derde.

With regret we have to state the misfortune befallen to the Dutch schooner Fraternal, Bolderslee master, belonging to Mr. Abraham Naar, of this place. This vessel sailed from St. Martha's bay, on Wednesday last about 4 o'clock P. M. with a cargo of salt for this harbour, but could not come in, in consequence of its being too late in the evening, and with the constant blowing of the north wind. She remained off Caracas Bay, waiting for the day. At about 10 o'clock they saw another vessel, the American schooner Ned, L. D. D-barroux master, bearing down on them, on approaching, they were cautioned to keep off, seeing the Fraternal having her sails lowered down could not give way, but with all this the Americans did not appear to be concerned, and boarded her on the midships, by which shock caused the Fraternal to sprang a leak. The captain and crew did every thing in their power, to bring the vessel in the first bay they could, but were unable to obtain any port, and the water increased in her so fast, that with all their exertions they were not able to keep her afloat any longer, the captain and crew made their escape in a boat with the exception of one man who was drowned.

With much grief we have to conform the report of the taking of the schooner Dorothea, capt. David Wagenaar, by pirates, we will give our readers a detail of this event, as we have received it from captain Constantien Dovale, of the Dutch sloop Helena. This captain reports thus: that being on the coast of P. Rico, he saw a vessel bearing down upon him, having the French tricolored flag hoisted, on approaching him he was hailed and ordered to lay by, and after having enquired where they came from, their destination and cargo, she was permitted to proceed, in the evening he descried two sails, a ship and a brig, and supposing them to be Colombian vessels, he kept close to the shore. On the following morning these vessels were again in sight, and bore down with full sail on him. He then saw the ship had put out a boat, that was sent after him, he made all sail and used oars to escape, but afterwards he recognised the colors of these vessels, being a Danish sloop of war and a brig, he shortened sail and waited for the boat, which came along side, and after having been informed of his place of destination, he was requested by the captain of the corvette who was in the boat, to pilot them into the port of Cabo Roxo. On their arrival there they went together to the captain of that port by

whom they were informed of the unlucky incident happened to the schooner Dorothea, which vessel has been fitted out as a pirate. This was communicated by a boy, who had happily escaped by swimming; this boy reported that they were boarded by a pirate under a French tricolored flag. The pirate took all the crew on board of his vessel and lucked them all up, in the hold except capt. W. they made then a hole in the side of the vessel, to cause her to sink, these people perceived the water, coming in the hold they broke into the cabin, and make their escape on deck through this way, hoping to save their lives, by some way or other, and get on shore; but how great was their astonishment, on seeing the boat returned again without capt. Wagenaar; and before he was taken away he implored for his life but could not excite compassion into the hearts of those barbarians.— They came on board the vessel and murdered every soul on board excepting two boys who sprung into the sea, which they pursued and murdered one, and left the other to go, because they thought he would not reach the shore. The boy who escaped is a native of Curaçao, and would have been sent by the commandant of Cabo Roxo to Curaçao, were it not for the captain of the corvette, who persisted to bring him on board of his ship, saying this boy knew the schooner Dorothea, and could assist him in recognizing her in case he should fall in with the pirate, and has promised to send the said boy from St. Thomas to Curaçao at his own expences.

We confess our grief on this misfortune befallen to captain Wagenaar; he was esteemed by every one of his acquaintances, and his affability of manners gained him many friends.— We hope, proper measures will be taken to check this inhuman and horrid trade.

Caracas, December 17.

We learn from Puerto Cabello that the corvette Boyaca had returned to that port from the island of Cuba, after landing the Spanish officers and soldiers who capitulated on the 10th of November last. The Pichincha and Arica left the island with the Boyaca, but had not arrived on the above date.

The Boyaca brings information of a most distracting state of affairs prevailing in Cuba.— The Colombian convoy lay off the port, during two days and a half, in consequence of a refusal to permit the entrance of the vessels into the harbour, on the plea of their being men of war. They at length however were suffered to enter with their colours hoisted, but the boats of the vessels were continually assailed with stones, and insults from the inhabitants. Governor Torres (the same who capitulated in Carthagens) received the officers with politeness, but intimated to them at the same time, that he could not permit them to be at liberty on shore, as the internal situation of the island was at that moment very disagreeable—being split into three factions—one proclaiming the king—another the constitution—and a third the independence of the country. General Cazada continued in arrest when the Boyaca sailed, but colonel Carrera was treated with great consideration. No rates had departed for the city of Havana eight days before their arrival.

From the Baltimore American.

FROM HAVANA AND MEXICO.
IMPORTANT.

By the schooner Cadmus, capt. Lane, arrived here on Saturday from Havana, the editors of the American, have received a letter from a correspondent at that place from which they make the following extracts:—

Havana, Nov. 13. 1823.

The political situation of affairs here is such as will prevent me from indulging in speculations on the turn they take; or even giving you a statement of what actually takes place.

Things are not on so liberal a footing as you may imagine in America.

I enclose you a copy of the MEXICAN DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST SPAIN, which will have an important bearing on the shipping interest of the United States but more particularly on that of Baltimore. The suspension of the trade in Spanish bottoms to the insurgent ports in the Mexican Gulph, throws out of employment about 60 vessels of all classes, but especially those of the smaller sizes. A number of voyages from London, Hamburg, Bremen and Liverpool, have been predicated on the supposition that there was nothing likely to cause an interruption of the trade between this depot and the Mexican ports; and this place is now overstocked with British and German manufactures. There is no vent for them but to Mexico. How are they to be taken off? Only to neutral bottoms; and Baltimore schooners are craft that will be preferred to all others. No doubt though the merchants here are now alarmed at the state of affairs in New Spain, they will soon recover their enterprise and make large shipments to that market. The present is only a momentary suspension, and if this hindrance can be used, you are at liberty to publish it.

I have lent a volume of Niles' Register to an agent of the Mexican government, to translate from it our state constitutions. There is no doubt they intend to erect a federative republic. The translation is nearly completed, and will be forwarded to Mexico by the first safe conveyance.

Mexico.—The American schooner Fame, captain Haley arrived at Havana on the 10th November, in 21 days from Alvarado, having on

board the two Spanish commissioners, D. Santiago Irisarri and D. Jose Ramon de Oses. By this vessel, has been received the following official Declaration of War by Mexico against Spain.

The unexpected commencement of hostilities by the governor of the castle of San Juan de Uloa against the town of Vera Cruz, has compelled the supreme executive power, to adopt measures consequent on an aggression unprovoked by its inhabitants, and warranted by no political considerations.

1st. It is ordered, that all political and mercantile relations with the Spanish nation cease.

2dly. That using lenity dictated by the philanthropic principles of the Mexican nation, it is ordered that all Spanish vessels immediately leave the ports of Mexico, without proceeding as the government might, to embargo or confiscate.

3dly. That the same conduct be pursued with all Spanish merchantmen that may arrive in these parts from Europe in the space of four months, a time sufficient to allow this resolution to be known on that continent, and of forty days from Havana, or any other Spanish port of North America.

4thly. That all vessels arriving after the expiration of those periods, will be treated according to the laws of war, (if, before it be not terminated) as will be, from this moment all armed vessels.

5thly. That after the period of four months, the productions of the Spanish soil will not be admitted to an entry under any flag whatever. By order of H. S. H.

FRANCISCO JOSE BERNAL.

Mexico, 1st Oct. 1823.

When the Cadmus sailed from Havana the intelligence of the fall of Cadiz had not yet reached there.

LONDON, Nov. 5.

THE STORM.

The storm of last Thursday night, appears to have swept, from North to South, the whole western coast of our island, from Scotland to Cornwall. The northern coast of Devon and Cornwall, lay open to its utmost fury. From Clovelly, we learn, that the sea poured over the Pier so furiously, that one-third of it has disappeared, and that the ruins have formed a bar across the harbor, which prevents all ingress or egress. At St. Ives, eight vessels were wrecked, and two more on the Zennor coast, a little farther westward. The crews of the two latter perished. The shipping in the well-sheltered harbour of Falmouth, suffered no damage whatever. The mail-coach from Falmouth, was absolutely blown over. Dartmoor, Exmoor, Haldon, and all our high hills were covered with snow, and continued so next day. The Exe rose and flooded the low grounds; and some of its banks and weirs.—Exeter Western Luminary.

Capt. James Hill, of Deal, master and owner of the Neath Castle, which foundered off Wainfleet on the 31st ult. and who has been for more than twenty nine years a sailor, and during that period three times shipwrecked, asserts that he was never before exposed to the melancholy effects of a gale so tremendous as that which so awfully, and so destructively swept the north eastern coast on Friday last. The intelligence communicated by capt. Hill, cannot but be deemed highly important by mercantile readers at the present juncture; he states that a fleet of merchantmen, consisting of no less than one hundred and fifty vessels, sailed from Yarmouth Roads on Thursday morning. With this numerous fleet the Neath Castle remained in company, until the rising tempest became so diffusive and so strong, as to cause their dispersion in all directions. It is our painful duty to add, that this experienced mariner yet further stated, that the violence of the hurricane, and the overwhelming sea, together with the appalling perils of darkness on a harbourless shore, to which these ships were exposed, when he parted from them, had deeply impressed his mind with a sorrowful apprehension that most of them would be inevitably lost. Our Grimby correspondent's letter conveys the heart-rending tidings that not less than thirty vessels are on shore between Grimby and Tetney Haven, an extent of only seven miles, and that the shipping has sustained considerable damage during the late gale. Fifty nine sail are stated to be on shore on the Lincolnshire coast—on the coast of Norfolk seven sail are on shore between Hunston Light-house and Lynn.

Thursday evening last, and during the whole of the night, this city and its neighbourhood were visited with a most tremendous storm of wind, rain, and snow from the north and north east. During the night the bed of the Frome overflowed its banks, and long ere day light the inhabitants of the Weir, Merchant street, Newfoundland street, the lower part of Milk street, and the cross streets adjoining, were awakened from their slumbers by the rushing of the water into their shops and cellars. At day break all the low land round Baptist Mills and Traitor's Bridge was discovered to be under water; and pigs, sheep, poultry, casks, household utensils, &c. were seen floating down the stream. Messrs. Bushell's turpentine manufactory, the skin-yards on the banks of the river, and other premises were all completely inundated, and damage to the amount of many thousand pounds must be the inevitable consequence. The London mail was nearly two hours behind the time, owing to its having been blown over on Meriborough Down; as was also the Blue-bodied London coach.—London Journal.

WASHINGTON, DEC. 2.

(CONTINUED FROM OUR LAST.)

This day at 12 o'clock, the President of the United States transmitted to both Houses of Congress, by the hands of his private secretary, the following

MESSAGE

*Fellow citizens of the senate,
and of the House of Representatives,*

The actual condition of the public finances more than realizes the favorable anticipations that were entertained of it at the opening of the last session of Congress. On the first of January, there was a balance in the treasury of four millions two hundred and thirty seven thousand four hundred and twenty seven dollars and fifty five cents. From that time to the thirtieth of September, the receipts amounted to upwards of sixteen millions one hundred thousand dollars, and the expenditures to eleven millions four hundred thousand dollars.—During the fourth quarter of the year, it is estimated, that the receipts will, at least, equal the expenditures, and that there will remain in the treasury, on the first day of January next, a surplus of nearly nine millions of dollars.

On the first of January, eighteen hundred and twenty five, a large amount of the war debt, and a part of the revolutionary debt, became redeemable. Additional portions of the former will continue to become redeemable annually, until the year eighteen hundred and thirty five. It is believed, however, that if the United States remain at peace, the whole of that debt may be redeemed by the ordinary revenue of those years during that period, under the provision of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and seventeen, creating the sinking fund, and in that case the only part of the debt, that will remain after the year eighteen hundred and thirty five, will be the seven millions of five per cent. stock subscribed to the bank of the United States, and the three per cent. revolutionary debt, amounting to thirteen millions two hundred and ninety six thousand and ninety nine dollars and six cents, both of which are redeemable at the pleasure of the government.

The state of the army in its organization and discipline, has been gradually improving for several years and has now attained a high degree of perfection. The military disbursements have been regularly made, and the accounts regularly and promptly rendered for settlement. The supplies of various descriptions have been of good quality, and regularly issued at all of the posts. A system of economy and accountability has been introduced into every branch of the service, which admits of little additional improvement. This desirable state has been attained by the act reorganising the staff of the army, passed on the fourteenth of April, eighteen hundred and eighteen.

The moneys appropriated for fortifications have been regularly and economically applied, and all the works advanced as rapidly as the amount appropriated would admit. Three important works will be completed in the course of this year; that is, fort Washington, fort Delaware, and the fort at the Rigollets, in Louisiana.

The board of engineers, and the topographical corps, have been in constant and active service, in surveying the coast, and projecting the works necessary for its defence.

The military academy has attained a degree of perfection in its discipline and instruction, equal, as is believed, to any institution of its kind in any country.

The money appropriated for the use of the ordnance department, has been regularly and economically applied. The fabrication of arms at the national armories, and by contract with the department, has been gradually improving in quality and cheapness. It is believed that their quality is now such as to admit of but little improvement.

The completion of the fortifications renders it necessary that there should be a suitable appropriation for the purpose of fabricating the cannon and carriages necessary for those works.

Under the appropriation of five thousand dollars, for exploring the western waters for the location of a site for a western armory, a commission was constituted, consisting of colonel M'Kee, colonel Lee, and captain Talcott, who have been engaged in exploring the country.—They have not yet reported the result of their labors, but it is believed that they will be prepared to do it, at an early part of the session of Congress.

During the month of June last, general Ashley and his party, who were trading under a license from the government, were attacked by the Ricarees while peacefully trading with the Indians, at their request. Several of the party were killed and wounded and their property taken or destroyed.

Colonel Leavenworth, who commanded fort Atkinson, at the council bluffs, the most western post, apprehending that the hostile spirit of the Ricarees would extend to other tribes in that quarter, and that thereby the lives of the traders on the Missouri, and the peace of the frontier would be endangered, took immediate measures to check the evil.

With a detachment of the regiment stationed at the Buff, he successfully attacked the Ricaree village, and it is hoped that such an impression has been made on them as well as on the other tribes on the Missouri, as will prevent a recurrence of future hostility.

The report of the secretary of war, which is herewith transmitted, will exhibit, in greater detail, the condition of the department in its

various branches, and the progress which has been made in its administration, during the three first quarters of the year.

I transmit a return of the militia of the several states, according to the last reports which have been made by the proper officers in each, to the department of war. By reference to this return, it will be seen that it is not complete, although great exertions have been made, to make it so. As the defence, and even the liberties, of the country must depend, in times of imminent danger, on the militia, it is of the highest importance, that it be well organized, armed, and disciplined, throughout the union. The report of the secretary of war shows the progress made during three first quarters of the present year, by the application of the fund appropriated to arming the militia. Much difficulty is found in distributing the arms according to the act of Congress providing for it, from the failure of the proper departments in many of the states, to make regular returns. The act of May the twelfth one thousand eight hundred and twenty, provides that the system of tactics and regulations of the various corps in the regular army, shall be extended to the militia. This act has been very imperfectly executed, from the want of uniformity in the organization of the militia, proceeding from the defects of the system itself, and especially in its application to that main arm of the public defence. It is thought that this important subject, in all its branches, merits the attention of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of the navy, which is now communicated, furnishes an account of the administration of that department, for the three first quarters of the present year, with the progress made in augmenting the navy, and the manner in which the vessels in commission have been employed.

The naval force has been maintained in the Mediterranean Sea, the Pacific Ocean, and along the Atlantic Coast, and has afforded the necessary protection to our commerce in those seas.

In the West Indies and Gulf of Mexico, our naval force has been augmented, by the addition of several small vessels, provided for by the act authorising an additional naval force for the suppression of piracy, passed by congress at the last session. That armament has been eminently successful in the accomplishment of its object. The piracies by which our commerce in the neighbourhood of the island of Cuba has been afflicted, have been repressed, and the confidence of our merchants in a great measure restored.

The patriotic zeal and enterprise of commodore Porter, to whom the command of the expedition was confided, has been fully rewarded by the officers and men under his command.—And, in reflecting with high satisfaction on the honorable manner in which they have sustained the reputation of their country and its navy, the sentiment is alloyed only by a concern, that, in the fulfilment of that arduous service, the diseases incident to the season, and to the climate in which it was discharged, have deprived the nation of many useful lives, and among them of several officers of great promise.

In the month of August, a very malignant fever made its appearance at Thompson's island, which threatened the destruction of our station there. Many perished, and the commanding officer was severely attacked. Uncertain as to his fate, and knowing that most of the medical officers had been rendered incapable of discharging their duties, it was thought expedient to send to that post an officer of rank and experience, with several skilful surgeons, to ascertain the origin of the fever, and the probability of its recurrence there in future seasons; to furnish every assistance to those who were suffering, and if practicable to avoid the necessity of abandoning so important a station. Commodore Rodgers, with a promptitude which did him honor, cheerfully accepted that trust, and has discharged it in the manner anticipated from his skill and patriotism. Before his arrival, commodore Porter, with the greater part of the squadron, had removed from the island, and returned to the United States, in consequence of the prevailing sickness. Much useful information has however been obtained, as to the state of the island, and great relief afforded to those who had been necessarily left there.

Although our expedition, co-operating with an invigorated administration of the government of the island of Cuba, and with the corresponding active exertions of a British naval force in the same seas, have almost entirely destroyed the unlicensed piracies from that island, the success of our exertions has not been equally effectual to suppress the same crime under other pretences and colors, in the neighbouring island of Porto Rico. They have been committed there under the abusive issue of Spanish commissions. At an early period of the present year, remonstrances were made to the governor of that island, by an agent, who was sent for the purpose, against those outrages on the peaceful commerce of the United States, of which many had occurred. That officer professing his own want of authority to make satisfaction for our just complaints, answered only by a reference of them to the government of Spain. The minister of the United States to that court was specially instructed to urge the necessity of the immediate and effectual interposition of that government, directing restitution and indemnity for wrongs already committed, and interdicting the repetition of them. The minister, as has been seen, was debarred access to the Spanish government, and, in the mean time, sev-

eral new cases of flagrant outrage have occurred, and citizens of the United States in the island of Porto Rico have suffered, and others been threatened with assassination, for asserting their unquestionable rights even before the lawful tribunals of the country.

The usual orders have been given to all our public ships to seize American vessels engaged in the slave trade, and bring them in for adjudication—and I have the gratification to state, that not one so employed has been discovered, and there is good reason to believe that our flag is now seldom, if it all, disgraced by that traffic.

It is a source of great satisfaction, that we are always enabled to recur to the conduct of our navy with pride and commendation. As a means of national defence, it enjoys the public confidence, and is steadily assuming additional importance. It is submitted whether a more efficient and equally economical organization of it might not, in several respects, be effected.—It is supposed that higher grades, than now exist by law, would be useful. They would afford well merited rewards to those who have long and faithfully served their country—present the best incentives to good conduct, and the best means of ensuring a proper discipline—destroy the inequality in that respect between the military and naval services, and relieve our officers from many inconveniences and mortifications, which occur when our vessels meet those of other nations, ours being the only service in which such grades do not exist.

A report of the postmaster general, which accompanies this communication, will show the present state of the post office department, and its general operations for some years past.

There is established by law eighty-eight thousand six hundred miles of post roads, on which the mail is now transported eighty-five thousand seven hundred miles; and contracts have been made for its transportation on all the established routes, with one or two exceptions. There are five thousand two hundred and forty post offices in the Union, and as many postmasters. The gross amount of postage which accrued from the first of July, 1822, to the first of July 1823, was one million one hundred and fourteen thousand three hundred and forty-five dollars and twelve cents. During the same period, the expenditures of the post office department amounted to one million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand eight hundred and eighty-five dollars and fifty one cent, and consisted of the following items: compensation to postmasters, three hundred and fifty three thousand nine hundred and ninety-five dollars and ninety eight cents; incidental expences, thirty thousand eight hundred and sixty six dollars and thirty seven cents; transportation of the mail, seven hundred and eighty-four thousand six hundred dollars and eight cent; payments into the treasury, four hundred and twenty three dollars and eight cents. On the first of July last, there was due to the department, from postmasters, one hundred and thirty five thousand two hundred and forty five dollars and twenty eight cents; from late postmasters and contractors, two hundred and sixty six thousand seven hundred and forty nine dollars and thirty one cents, making a total amount of balances due to the department of three hundred and ninety one thousand nine hundred and ninety four dollars and fifty nine cents. These balances embrace all delinquencies of postmasters and contractors, which have taken place since the organization of the department. There was due by the department to contractors on the first day of July last, twenty six thousand five hundred and forty-eight dollars and sixty four cents.

The transportation of the mail, within five years past, has been greatly extended, and the expenditures of the department proportionably increased. Although the postage which has accrued within the last three years has fallen short of the expenditures two hundred and sixty two thousand eight hundred and twenty one dollars and forty six cents it appears that collections have been made from the outstanding balances to meet the principal part of the current demands.

It is estimated, that not more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the above balances can be collected, and that a considerable part of this sum can only be realized by a resort to legal process. Some improvement in the receipts for postage, is expected. A prompt attention to the collection of moneys received by postmasters, it is believed, will enable the department to continue its operations without aid from the treasury, unless the expenditure shall be increased by the establishment of new mail routes.

A revision of some parts of the post office law may be necessary; and it is submitted, whether it would not be proper to provide for the appointment of postmasters, where the compensation exceeds a certain amount, by nomination to the senate, as other officers of the general government are appointed.

Having communicated my views to Congress, at the commencement of the last session, respecting the encouragement which ought to be given to our manufactures, and the principle on which it should be founded, I have only to add, that those views remain unchanged, and that the present state of those countries with which we have the most immediate political relations, and greatest commercial intercourse, tends to confirm them. Under this impression, I recommend a review of the tariff, for the purpose of affording such additional protection to those articles which we are prepared to manufacture, or which are more immediately connected with the defence and independence of the country.

(To be continued.)